



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Pastor's
Corner

May 3, 2009

ARE YOU A GOOD SHEPHERD?

A good shepherd lays down his life experiences and offers them to be used by his people. He does not impose them but he offers them. He can attest about them because he knows of their outcomes. When someone asks for guidance, the shepherd listens at length, until the trials of his interlocutor resonate in his heart and mind. The good shepherd finds connections with his own life experiences and those of the person speaking to him. And from that shared place of hurt and grace, he proposes a path. This is how I understand the words of today's Gospel, "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11) This laying down of his life does not happen merely when the shepherd dies of exhaustion due to overwork. It happens when the shepherd lives with and for his people.

For me, it has taken the form of the ministry of confession, spiritual director and counseling, preaching, and coordinating. Over the years, God has blessed this way of being a priest. I have discovered in my life many experiences to which many persons can relate. They can enrich their own experiences with mine, and I with theirs. This is how I appropriate the words of Christ in today's Gospel, "I know my own (people) and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father". (John 10:14-15)

There is a big difference, though, between me and Christ! He can say "I am the way. I can only point to Him. Even when I share my most personal experience, I share more about Him than about myself. I attest about how I have found the meaning of my life's struggles and joys through Him, in Him, with Him. Every event in our life finds its meaning and its cohesion in Him. And we are all connected together in Him, through Him, with Him. (con't next page)

(Pastor's Corner—con't)

You may not be a priest, but you are called to be a shepherd in your family, in your classroom, at your workplace, in your parish community and in the Church. When you were baptized, you were anointed as priest, prophet and king (shepherd). Pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, married life, lay ministries and services. God does not need your abilities but your availability. He does not need some things in you, He needs you. He needs you to be life-giving not life-taking. Free from yourself, open to the vastness of being.

God Bless You, *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

SR YOUTH MINISTRY -- (Grades 8 - 12)

Do you like it when things are fair? What do you feel when an injustice has been done to you? How can we do our part to make the world a more just place for everyone? Come and join the Sr. Youth Ministry discussion and get involved. **When: Monday, May 4 @ 6:30pm. Where: Rectory Basement**

PROJECT ADVANCE -- UPDATE

Please take a moment to read the 2009 Project Advance brochures that are available at the foyer. It outlines in detail the causes that will be supported by the campaign and a sample of a monthly gift plan. There will be a video presentation at all masses this weekend to give you more in depth details of this year's goals. Parishioners who contributed in the past were mailed pledge cards last week. Committee members will be in the foyer to collect completed pledge cards or register new donors AFTER each mass from now until the end of June. Thank you in advance for your generous support & participation in this important event.

CARNATIONS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will be selling **carnations by donation after all Masses next weekend**. Thank your Mom (or any mom) with a simple token of your appreciation. Proceeds go to Talitha Koum Society (who help recovering women) and the Missionaries of Charity who run a home for single moms

2009/2010 PREP EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Registration forms for the 09/10 catechism year are available. Registration fees will be **discounted ONLY during the month of May** and then regular registrations will resume in August. Register early to save \$\$ and to be assured of a spot for next year. These forms are available in the Parish Office, school office (during PREP nights --Tue and Wed) and in the Church foyer.

PARISH NEWS

ST. MARY'S CWL MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

The Catholic Women's League is pleased to host a luncheon next **Sunday, May 10 in the Church Basement from 11:00am - 2:00pm..** Come, enjoy a great menu at a very affordable price. Cost: \$15 per adult; \$8 for children aged 7 - 10, FREE for children under 7. CWL members are selling tickets in the foyer after Mass. Your mother and/or special lady will thank you for it!

PARISH PICTURE DIRECTORY-- Say "Cheese"

We need **your family** photo to make The Parish Picture Directory a success. There is no cost to have pictures taken. and remember that every participating family gets a **free directory!** If you don't have a family, individual photos are just as important. Photos will be taken in the church basement, from May 19-May 30. Mon-Fri 2:30pm-8:30pm, & Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm. Book your appointment in the church foyer after all Sunday masses. *Thank you for building a stronger parish community*

ANNUAL SPRING DANCE

Our Knights of Columbus will have their Annual Spring Dinner and Dance Party on **Saturday, May 23** in the St. Mary's School Gym. All proceeds will go to Birth Right Program. For tickets call Bro. Rene Montilla at 604-454-9679, Bro Joe. Pellingon at 604-438-3821 or Bro. Manny Mendoza at 604-430-3647

MUSICIANS WANTED

Can you sing or can you play the drums, the guitar or the keyboard? **Youth Ministry needs you.** We want to start a band to lead the Youth Ministry in praise and worship. This is the ultimate opportunity for minimal commitment with maximum fun. If you are interested please call Arda at 604-435-9611 ext 6

THANK YOU FROM RESPECT LIFE

A HUGE **THANK YOU** is extended to all those who donated items and helped at our recent Yard Sale for Respect Life. The sale was a big success, and the money raised will be used to pay for TV commercials that have proven to be VERY effective in saving the lives of women and children. Again we thank you.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL HAS OPENINGS

St. Mary's School has openings for September 2009 in **Grades 4, 5 and 7.** If you are interested, please contact the school for an application package. Telephone number is 604-437-1312.

DO YOU OWN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ENVELOPE NUMBERS?

Fifth Request. PLEASE contact the parish office if you use the following envelope numbers:124; 166; 245; 283; 284; 340; 422; 474; 589; 809; 879; 1093; 1456; 1652; 1719; 1747; 2034

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD) is a family ministry of the Couples for Christ (CFC). It is a support ministry for mature women who are unmarried, widowed, divorced and single parents. It fosters a personal relationship with God and a renewed faith in Jesus. If you are interested please contact Mila Zipagan at milazipagan@yahoo.ca

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

VOCATION LIVE-IN

On the **weekend of May 8 - 10**, there will be a vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or consecrated life. This will be at the Seminary of Christ the King.. For more information call 604-826-8715.

SPECIAL MASS AND PRAYERS FOR BIRTHRIGHT

In honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, His Excellency Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB will be officiating this Mass on **Saturday, May 9, 2009 at Holy Rosary Cathedral**. Rosary will begin at 11:35am followed by Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 12:10pm. Please bring family and friends. All are welcome. Refreshments to follow in Holy Rosary Hall -- donations of finger food are appreciated. Birthright Info: 604-687-7223.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The Knights of Columbus Council 14459 is organizing a bus trip to Victoria on **Friday, May 14, 2009**. Departure is at 7:00am from St. Casmir's Parish (1187 East 27th Avenue, Van). Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew Cathedral at noon and then a walk to the Parliament Buildings. Bus will return to Vancouver at approximately 7:00pm. BC Gold Card holders will be exempt from ferry fees. Total cost per person is \$55. More info: Jan Bottcher (604-327-2909)/St. Casmir's parish(604-876-3194).

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES -- HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Catholic Family Services, the professional counseling agency of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, offers counseling as follows: **Individual, couples or families; CARE** for Separated and Divorced Men and Women; **Beyond Power & Control** for men in relationships; **Reclaiming Self** for women healing from abusive relationships; **Project Rachel** services for those touched by abortion. Counselor Sr. Cecilia Hong is fluent in English, French, Cantonese, Mandarin and Shanghainese. Catholic Family Services is located in the Archdiocesan Office at 150 Robson Street. The telephone number is 604-683-0281.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. May 03:** 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)
- Mon. May 04:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Sr. Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Mass (Church)
7:30pm Lay Apostolate (Church Basement)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Library)
- Tue. May 05:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
7:30pm K of C Executive. (Church Basement)
- Wed. May. 06:** 10:45am Fairhaven Liturgy (7557 Sussex Avenue)
2:00pm Willingdon Park Liturgy (4435 Grange St)
6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:30pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:00pm Street Ministry (Rectory Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Thu. May. 07:** 6:00pm Youth Ministry Leaders (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:15pm Hands of Veronica (Rectory Dining)
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer (Church Basement)
7:30pm Lay Missionaries (Rectory Basement)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Fri. May. 08:** 9:00am Bible Sharing for Women (Rect. Bsmt)
10:00am St. Michael's Mass (7451Sussex Avenue)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
6:30pm Couples for Christ--FFL (Church Bsmt)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:15pm Benediction (Church)
- Sat. May: 09:** 12:40pm Bible Study & Sharing (Church Basement)
2:00pm First Holy Communion (Church)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Rectory Dining Room)
6:30pm Light of Jesus Ministry (Crying Room)
7:00pm Singles for Christ (Church Basement)
7:30pm Couples for Christ-CLP (School Gym)
- Sun. May. 10:** 1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
2:00pm Couples for Christ (Church Basement)



PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES : Monday 7:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:15pm
Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm (**Anticipation**)
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before all Masses (except 8:00am) & After all Masses
Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm
Weekdays: After ALL Masses (except Thursday Evening Masses)
--- An appointment for confession may be made by phone

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

FIRST FRIDAYS: Adoration Throughout the day after Masses

Masses: 8:00am followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Benediction: 9:15pm

BAPTISMS: To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGES:

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course. One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's for at least one year before contacting the Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursdays: 8:00am Saturdays: 12:00noon

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP: Catechism Program for children attending public schools

TEEN PREP: Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00pm

E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leader: Joseph D'silva

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca

Website: www.smyac.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM)

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu

E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Kevin Smith (Principal)

Office Phone: (604) 437-1312

Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Office Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturdays: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Pastor:

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P..

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon